



State of Arizona

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STATEMENT BY GOVERNOR JAN BREWER

"I have been asked by Arizona news media to respond to a recent statement by Senators McCain and Kyl regarding the appropriate solutions to balance Arizona's state budget.

"Never before in my 28 years as an elected official have I supported a tax increase. And although it is not a budget deficit I created, I am firm in my determination and responsibility to resolve it.

"The Arizona Legislature and I have already adopted the largest permanent spending reductions in state history – well over \$2 billion permanently reduced, out of what was once a \$10 billion annual budget, with the adoption of this year's plan. Cutting another \$1 billion from our children's classrooms, or from law enforcement and first responders, is no solution. The consequences are far too severe. Nor is borrowing billions more, and saddling our children and our children's children with the payments.

"Arizona's massive budget deficit demands responsible solutions from its elected leaders. That is why I have advocated the opportunity on May 18th for Arizona voters to support my efforts on behalf of our children's education and for the safety of our families, and to support a constitutionally-guaranteed temporary increase of 1 cent per dollar on the state sales tax. Doing the right thing often means doing the hard thing, but our children and their future deserve no less."

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